

Stafford News Letter.

SATURDAY, JAN. 21, 1865.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

The glorious news from off Wilmington, overshadows all other war news, and is another triumph of our army and navy, which adds glory to American arms. We give particulars in another column. Admiral Porter says we lost about 900 men in the capture of the fort. He expects to take the forts up the river in a few days. The day after the capture a serious accident occurred at the fort. The magazine blew up, killing and wounding about 300 of our soldiers.

Several thousand of Gen. Thomas' command under Gen. Meagher are on the way to reinforce Sherman who is moving on Pocotaligo. Peace and order remain at Savannah. The civil authorities of that city have sent a delegation to Gov. Brown, of that state relative to a return of Georgia to the Union.

The Danville road by which Gen. Lee gets his supplies, has been seriously damaged by a storm, for forty miles. Lee's army is consequently short of rations.

A rise of the Potomac has sent a stream of water through the Dutch Gap Canal, and overflowed all the low-lands.

The garrison at Beverly, West Virginia, were attacked on the 11th inst, by a force under Gen. Rosser. The town and a large portion of the force defending it were captured.

Fifteen members of the 18th Kentucky Infantry were murdered in cold blood by guerrillas, near Lebanon Junction, Kentucky, last week. Several railroad cars were burnt by the ruffians, about the same time. Sue Munday's gang are supposed to have participated in the murders.

A St. Louis correspondent says that Forts Smith and Van Buren have been abandoned, and that Fort Gibson, in the Indian Territory, no doubt, soon will be. The garrison at Fayetteville, Ark., has not yet been withdrawn.

Deserters from the rebel Forrest's command are constantly coming into Cairo and taking the oath of allegiance to the Government.

There is a slight military stir along the Eastern border, and the coast and frontier of Maine are being put in condition for defense. Two companies of State guards were sent to the batteries at Belfast, lately.

Recently a part of the Home Guards and the 9th Missouri pursued through several of the interior counties the noted Jim Jackson, whom with 17 of his men, they succeeded in overtaking and killing.

Information has been received at the Navy Department of the capture of the schooner Flash off the coast of Mexico, on the 27th of November, by the Princess Royal. Her cargo was an assorted one.

The sloop-of-war San Jacinto, Capt. R. W. Meade commanding, was lost on the morning of the 1st inst., on a reef off No-Name Key, on the Bahama Banks. Every effort was made to save her, but she was wrecked.

but a heavy gale setting in from the eastward, frustrated all attempts, and at 10 o'clock the next day she bilged—her sides being crushed in. The captain managed to land his crew without loss of life. He also succeeded in saving the guns and most of the stores.

That the rebel Gen. Price is dead seems to be settled by a rebel official order which has been received at Little Rock by the Union commander, Gen. Reynolds.

Gen. Canby has ordered a draft in Louisiana, independent of the general call of the President.

Reports from Mexico state that the Republican army under Porfirio Diaz had gained a splendid victory over the Imperialists, and that Artega was besieging Morelia, compelling by this investment the Imperialists to evacuate the whole State of Jalisco. Insurrectionary movements are said to be on the increase.

The Indians are very troublesome on the Western plains. Near Valley City, Colorado, they have been murdering the inhabitants, and burning the residences of the settlers along the rail road.

FIENDISH REVENGE.—The New Bedford Standard states that several times during the past week large stones have been placed on the track of the Old Colony and Newport Railroad at the point in Randolph where a man was run over and killed a short time since. Luckily they have been discovered in season to avert disaster. It is probable that this outrage on the public safety is the work of some misguided friend of the unfortunate victim.

ANOTHER FREE STATE.—The Tennessee State Convention has unanimously adopted resolutions abolishing and forever prohibiting Slavery within that State, and abrogating the secession ordinance and all the laws passed in pursuance thereof. These are to be voted upon by the people on the 22d of February, and if they are adopted, election for Governor and members of the Legislature will be held on the 4th of March.

SUICIDE OF MAN AND WIFE.—Mr. Joseph F. Dr. Vices, of Ballardvale, Mass., and his wife, a young couple, were found dead in bed a few days ago, the wife with one arm around her husband's neck. They had both been attacked with symptoms of diphtheria, and it is supposed that they inhaled either as a remedy, taking so much that it caused their death.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.—The Portland paper state that Rev. H. M. Black, pastor of Pine street Methodist Church in that city, while on his way to church Sunday-morning, dropped down in the street and died in a few minutes. His trouble was heart disease. The deceased ranked high in the Methodist denomination.

A DANGEROUS COAST.—The coast of North Carolina is one of the most dangerous and disagreeable places on our entire continent at the time of a storm. It has been estimated that over a hundred thousand lives are lost along that coast every twenty years.

Capture of Fort Fisher.

What Gen. Butler and Gen. Weitzel failed to do, and declared impossible, has been done by Gen. Terry, and about 8000 brave men under him, who stormed the works, and took it at the point of the bayonet. The assault upon the Fort by the navy commenced on Friday, and was kept up without intermission, night and day till Sunday afternoon, when the land forces, who had been put on shore Friday advanced upon the Fort. One corner of it was secured in half an hour. Then commenced a hand-to-hand fight which lasted till 9 o'clock in the evening before the garrison surrendered. The Fort had been heavily reinforced, and 2500 prisoners fell into our hands, together with all the guns of the Fort, numbering 72. All the forts in the vicinity surrendered. The rebel loss was about 500 killed besides wounded. Our loss in killed and wounded is placed at 900. Lieut. Preston and Lieut. Porter of the flag ship were both killed. The rebel Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb are prisoners. The rebel pirate Tallahassee and Chicamauga were both in the fight and were driven up the river. The naval attack was a brilliant affair. No less than 25,000 shells were fired into Fort Fisher.

Fort Fisher commands the entrance to Cape Fear River river, and is fifteen miles below the city of Wilmington. This place is now sealed to blockade runners, and several of them are doubt caught up the river, while others may be caught in attempting to get in before hearing of the fall of the Fort. Our gunboats have gone up the river, and the smaller forts further up will no doubt soon fall and the city be captured. During the war this place has been the great loop-hole for blockade runners, but the door is now closed and a serious blow falls on the confederacy, the effects of which will be felt pretty severely at Richmond.

The capture of Fort Fisher since its reinforcement, puts Gen. Butler's plea of "impossibility," in a bad light, and that General in no enviable position.

The Rebels See Ghosts.

Rebel newspapers give accounts of remarkable atmospheric phenomena witnessed at various times by persons of veracity. On one occasion a procession of shadowy forms like those of human beings, thousands upon thousands in number, were seen moving through a deep valley, and finally ascending a steep mountain and disappearing. They were headed north, and occupied about an hour in passing. Their arms, legs and heads could be distinctly seen in motion as they marched about forty abreast in military order, and seemed to be on the double quick. They were dressed in white blouses, with wool hats and carried no arms. They appeared to be of all sizes, but all white! On another occasion several pickets at a station in Greenbrier county, Va., saw a similar spectacle in the sky, and these ghostly visions are interpreted to symbolize the coming of peace. Such atmospheric exhibitions are not uncommon in the highlands of Scotland, and are sometimes witnessed at sea. They are caused by which movements taking place in one locality may be seen in the sky fifty or a hundred miles away. By this refraction of the atmosphere ships are seen moving among the clouds, and men by thousands marshaled in the sky. The host thus witnessed by the rebels may have been a reflection of Sherman's army down in Georgia or Union forces moving in North Carolina. They were right no doubt in arguing that such phenomena indicated peace, for the movements of Union armies will surely bring peace and that at no very distant day.

All About Peace.

Mr. Blair, who went to Richmond last week, has got back, and yet nobody knows what he went for or what he did there. As near as can be ascertained, he was received very cordially by distinguished individuals in that city; was waited on attentively at the Spotswood House; saw Jeff Davis, and talked with him; but, further than this, we are all in ignorance. If he went after his private papers, which were stolen by a rebel raiding party last summer, he does not tell us that he has got them. If he proposed any terms of peace, he does not say what they were or how they were received. If he did any good, or any harm, nobody is likely to be any the wiser; and all the talk and gasconade about the Blairs going to Richmond on a peace mission seem to have been strength and newspaper ink wasted.—Something more practical, something more sensible may be drawn from the discussions of the subject in rebel papers. They are talking the matter over more sensibly than they have hitherto done, and evidently preparing the minds of the people of the South for an early peace. Success seems to be out of the reach of rebel state-manship or rebel generalship, and a disastrous failure in both is freely acknowledged. Though rebel print's yet profess to believe that the Confederacy will gain its independence, yet it can be plainly seen that they do not believe it. They are putting the blame of failure upon Jeff Davis, and hinting at his superseding by the action of a convention; which is about as much as to say that Jeff Davis were out of the way there would be no barrier to an early peace. "The result of the next six months," says the Charleston Mercury, "will bring the Confederacy to the ground or restate its power; and, no doubt the Mercury thinks it will be brought to the ground. At any rate, its prospects never were so hopeless as now.

BABY BUSINESS.—Our neighbor, the Springfield Republican, announces itself as having gone into the baby brokerage business, offering to supply babies for those who haven't any, and homes for children in want of them.—Judging from the announcement frequently seen in their list of births we should think the editors of the Republican perfectly competent to supply the demand for little ones.

SHOCKING.—When old Mr. Blair met the wife of Jeff Davis at Richmond, she was so overjoyed that she threw her arms about his neck and kissed him!

Death of Edward Everett.

EDWARD EVERETT, the great Massachusetts statesman and scholar died at Boston at 4 o'clock last Sunday morning of apoplexy.—He had labored hard during the previous week, addressing a meeting at Faneuil Hall in aid of the people of Savannah on Monday, and was afterwards engaged in court in a suit which he had brought against the city of Charlestown for overflowing his lands by raising a dam in the Mystic River. He had taken a slight cold but was recovering. His housekeeper saw him at 3 o'clock when he was sleeping quietly. An hour later she was alarmed by hearing a heavy fall in his room, and entering found him lying on the floor breathing heavily. A physician was sent for but before he arrived Mr. Everett had expired.

Mr. Everett has filled a large space in the attention of the country for the last thirty years. He was born in Dorchester, Mass., April 11th 1794, and entered Harvard College in 1807. Leaving college with the highest honors of his class, he was appointed tutor, and pursued the studies of theology. In 1813 he became pastor of the Brattle Street Church at Boston, being then less than 20 years of age. His congregation was composed of the most refined circles of the city, and he was esteemed the most eloquent and impressive pulpit orator in that vicinity. The same year he was appointed professor of Greek literature at Harvard, and in order to more fully prepare himself for the position went abroad on an extended course of European travel and study. He returned in 1819, and was hailed as a luminous star in the literary horizon. The same year he took charge of the North American Review, and gave several public orations which excited unusual admiration. His political career commenced in 1824, when he was elected to Congress from the Middlesex district. He served ten years in the House of Representatives, holding the important position of Chairman on the Committee of Foreign Affairs. In 1834, he declined being reelected to Congress, and was elected Governor of Massachusetts and he was twice reelected. In 1839 he was defeated by Marcus Morton, who had a majority of one vote. In 1840, on the election of Gen. Harrison to the Presidency, he was appointed minister to England, which office he filled till 1845 when he was appointed president of Harvard College. On the death of Daniel Webster in 1853, Mr. Everett accepted the vacant place of Secretary of State under President Fillmore. In 1853 he was elected to the U. S. Senate, but failing health induced him to resign the following year. Since that time he has devoted himself to his own private affairs and giving public orations. He raised \$100,000 in the latter pursuit for the purchase of the Mount Vernon estate, and since the rebellion broke out has taken an active part in an eloquent defence of the Union. He was one of the electors at large from Massachusetts in the late presidential contest.

Mr. Everett was a profound scholar and a natural, graceful, and courtly orator. No one who has ever heard him will ever forget his majestic appearance in the rostrum or the classic eloquence of his sentences. He was one of those intellectual giants contemporary with Webster and Choate, and his death leaves a void that cannot be filled. His death has been appropriately noticed throughout the country in a public manner, and every where the news was received with the deepest grief.

His funeral took place at Boston on Thursday, at the Chaucey street church. Services were conducted by Rev. Rufus Ellis. The governor and legislature, the faculty of Harvard College, the city governments of Boston, Charlestown, and Worcester, several literary associations, the Independent Cadets, four companies of marines, and several other military companies attended the funeral. Places of business were nearly all closed, and the bells of the churches tolled as the long procession moved towards Cambridge. It was quite sundown when the procession reached Mount Auburn. The remains were not seen by the whole congregation.

TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK.—The Commonwealth states that immediately on the fall of Savannah, Gov. Andrew dispatched agents to that city to recruit black loyalists for the national army to be credited to the quota of this state. He then asked permission from the Secretary of War to do so, which was cheerfully accorded, and the documents will arrive out about the time the first squad is on its way to Massachusetts.

MORAL LOOSENESS.—The literary and artistic circles of New York have just been shocked by the most scandalous moral obliquity of a talented and well known individual in connection with that of a Washington authoress of certain glittering indecencies, which have been freely copied by the press, and have given to her a questionable poetic fame.

MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIERS.—The whole number of Massachusetts soldiers who have recently been exchanged from rebel prisons and arrived at Annapolis, Md., is 975. Number of deaths of soldiers belonging to this State is 630, left in prison 334, joined the rebel service 35.

GREAT AGE.—A man named Scott, originally from Lower Canada, died in Kingston, U. C., on Tuesday last, at the great age of 116 years. Although feeble in body, he retained his general health and clearness of intellect to the last.

SHERMAN AT SAVANNAH.—The Augusta Chronicle of January 4th pays a high compliment to Sherman's administration at Savannah. It says the most perfect order is maintained. No citizen or his property is allowed to be interfered with.

HE EXPLAINS.—Mr. Fry says his late order about the quotas for the last call does not effect those towns which have a surplus. So we thought.

A MAN IN PROVIDENCE. R. I., was fined \$20 and costs, last week, for taking the body of a child who died of small pox to the cemetery in an improper manner.

A VARIETY OF THINGS.

WINTER STILL HOLDS ITS REIGN over the New Year, and, thus far, January has been a cold month. Two or three times have there been attempts at a thaw; but the weather, after struggling a day or two between rain and frost, has given in and allowed the Frost King to have his own way. We have had several cold and blustering days this week, with a nice little snow-storm on Tuesday evening to replenish the sleighing.

—The ice season has commenced. The article grows now about as fast as it can be harvested. —Gold is working down, but the issue of a few millions of greenbacks will bring it up. If it gets down to 200 and stays there, we may consider that our currency is mending; but gold will be above par for a long time to come, war or no war.

—An application for re-admission into the Union is expected soon to proceed from Tennessee, headed by Gov. Johnson, Vice President elect.

—England has recognized the Dominicans, thus placing our dark friends in San Domingo on a level with our light friends in the Southern Confederacy. The chivalry will grow over the association.

—Gen. Hood lost 20,000 men and 68 guns in his Tennessee campaign. Our loss was 7,000 men, and no guns. The rebels cannot stand such losses long.

—Under internal revenue laws, New York paid, in the last fiscal year, \$16,851,113.01; Illinois, \$8,389,496.02; and Massachusetts, \$5,277,863.03.

—Three army correspondents—among them M. A. D. Richardson, of the N. Y. Tribune—have escaped from rebel confinement and arrived at Nashville.

—A coal oil millionaire has named his little heiress Petrolia Ann. It is expected that the next little heiress will be named Carrie Sene.

—In strength and stimulating power, ten glasses of cider or porter, six glasses of claret, five of Burgundy, four of champagne, three of sherry, are equivalent to one glass of brandy or three-quarters of a glass of rum. Drinkers can regulate their cups accordingly.

—Take no bills of the Passumpsic (Vt.) Bank, as they will not be redeemable in Boston after the 15th of February.

—Petroleum is announced to be a sovereign cure for the itch. There is, certainly, great itching for petroleum.

—The editor of the Westfield News Letter gives its readers the "philosophical character of Judge John Wells, of Chiscopee," from which we infer that the Judge has got some brains as well as other folks.

PORT FISHER. Ben Butler went to take the Fort—Looked at it, then looked at it—And while he wore the fort would stand, Al! Terry went and took it.

—It is asserted that turkeys were abundant in Richmond at Christmas time. Geese certainly were.

A young man named Trout, a clerk in the Evening Gazette office, has run away, having pocketed \$500 of his employer's money. That Trout should be caught.

—The proposed confederation of British North American Provinces meets with considerable opposition.

—An exchange says that the most popular agricultural fair is a farmer's daughter. Who would not "attend" such a fair?

—At Lowell, Mass., on Monday, the jury convicted a girl of 13 and a boy of 11 of selling liquor. They belong in Williamsonstown.

—Butler may be a good fisher of fish, but is a poor fisher of men, as shown by his failure at Fort Fisher.

—Miss Mary Franklin, of Pawtucket, R. I., died on Saturday last, of lock-jaw, caused by a wound in the foot received a few weeks since.

—The subscriptions in Philadelphia for the relief of the Savannah sufferers has reached nearly \$25,000.

—Newfoundland is suffering terribly because of the failure of the fish-lies.

—A very much greater quantity of cotton than was reported has been found at Savannah.

—Sixteen years ago, Gen. Grant was setting type in an Ohio printing office.

—A. G. Jerome, the young and wealthy New York broker, is dead.

THE U. S. BOUQUY.—The War Department has decided that the bounty of \$302 offered by its order of Oct. 24, 1863, for raw recruits joining old regiments in the field, cannot be paid to recruits who joined the veteran regiments and battalions raised in Massachusetts; consequently, recruits who enlisted in Massachusetts and have received three instalments of this bounty, are obliged to refund it on their final settlements. Several wounded men have thus found themselves, when discharged, without a dollar, although they declare that, by the State order No. 30, they were promised this United States bounty.

QUINCY.—Rev. Mr. Thwing's parishioners celebrated his wooden wedding the other day, in a sensible way, by sending him a load of wood, flour, sugar, etc.; which, with gifts previously received, amounted to upwards of two hundred dollars. Twice have they added two hundred dollars to his salary during less than two years. Their hearts, surely, are not made of granite, if their hills are. Mr. Thwing was formerly of Monson.

A VERY IRREGULAR HUSBAND.—A manufacturer in New Haven has been in a bad domestic way for several years. He has lived with a former employee as his wife for five years and had two children by her. He has now deserted her, and her relations have sued him for \$3000 damages, bringing him to a settlement. It is now reported that he was a married man when he commenced living with the girl.

CONVENTION OF SPIRITUALISTS.—It is proposed to hold a World's Convention of Spiritualists in New York City on the 22d of February next, the sittings of which will continue for a week. The convention will discuss, it is understood, some important subjects.

GOOD PROPOSITION.—It is proposed to tax lands that are held by speculators in the West, and which are unimproved. The tax is to be levied by the federal government. This course it is thought, will lead to much good land being thrown into market.

WHAT SHE PREDICTS.—Mrs. Antonette Lucinda Brown Blackwell, recently said in a public address, that there were little girls now at school who will become governors and senators.

THE DRAFT.—February 15th is the day when the new draft will be enforced, then and thereafter. The best way to escape the draft is to enlist.

TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS.

Having tried every resource in vain to induce England to recognize the confederacy, the rebels now turn upon John Bull with violent passion, and accuse him of being the author of all their miseries. The growth of anti-slavery at the north, and the seeds of disension sown in the south, are attributed to this Mr. Bull, who is now playing second fiddle to the United States, having lost the courage to resent an injury or insult. The Richmond Examiner says:

England is responsible for the present calamities of this continent, and that our once prosperous and happy States are now the scenes of almost unparalleled bloodshed and misery, the responsibility rests upon Great Britain. The anti-slavery party in the North would have died out long ago but for the inspirations it received from a country to which all Americans were in the habit of looking for lessons in civilization and morals. By every instrumentality that could be brought to bear upon the human mind, England has been laboring for the last thirty years to propel her whole moral weight upon the Northern mind, so as to instigate and inflame it to sectional hostility against those States of the Union in which Slavery existed. The most distinguished Southern statesman, on a visit to her capitol, was ostentatiously slighted by the nobility, and a fugitive slave publicly petted by the same Duchess of Sutherland who disposed of her white tenantry in Scotland to convert their farms into sheepwalks.

After going on at this rate for awhile the Examiner thinks the day of retribution to England will come, when the Canadas will slip from her grasp, and her domination of the sea will be successfully disputed. Poor John Bull!

BERKSHIRE AFTER A BIRD.—A Mr. Chadbourne from Berkshire, who occupies one of the mahogany desks in the Mass. Senate Chamber, has introduced a resolve declaring the office of councillor from the 7th district vacant, and that the interests of the Commonwealth require that it should be filled. Hon. Francis W. Bird of Walpole was elected from that district, and it will be recollected that he did not swear to support the constitution of the United States in taking the oath of office, considering that affirmation was sufficient. Mr. Bird was right, and nobody could be found silly enough to introduce such a resolve but this Mr. Chadbourne, a new member from the remotest section of the state. We imagine there is a spirit of revenge in this, for the persevering yet manly opposition which Mr. Bird has made to the squandering of the public money on the Hoosac Tunnel. But Mr. Bird will come out all right in this matter, despite of Berkshire enmity. He is an honest, conscientious man, and has made an able councillor. Who this Mr. Chadbourne is we don't know, but we will venture an opinion that he is a small-souled politician, who wants to get into notoriety. We don't envy him his situation in trying to get Mr. Bird out of the Council.

EXPENSIVE SILVER WEDDING.—Mr. Robert Pomeroy, a wealthy gentleman of Pittsfield, celebrated his silver wedding on Monday evening, at an expense of \$20,000! Over one thousand invitations were issued outside of Pittsfield; a ball room was erected for the occasion; a celebrated band from New York was engaged; and the invitation cards were the most expensive ever produced in this country. The presents on that occasion were valued at over \$7000. Distinguished persons from all parts of the country were present, and several from Canada and London. Mr. Pomeroy eloped from Pittsfield with his lady-love twenty-five years ago; and, as they could not have a wedding then, he decided to make up for it now.

A BIG RAT DESERTING THE SINKING SHIP.—Senator Foote, of the rebel congress, who recently made a peace speech and then left that body, was arrested last week Friday just as he was about entering our lines, south side of the Potomac. His wife was permitted to come north. He is at Fredericksburg, on parole. It is thought he would have made important disclosures had he got out of rebeldom. Senator Foote is well known as Hangman Foote, a red-hot fire-eater, who once proposed to hang Senator Hale of N. H., to the tallest pine in Mississippi. He has now got sick of rebeldom, and was attempting to desert the sinking ship when caught. He will be looked upon as a traitor to the South hereafter, and will find no peace in the confederacy.

FRANCE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE CONFEDERACY.—Private advice state that just previous to the departure of the steamer China from Queenstown it transpired that Napoleon's speech to the Foreign Ambassadors, on New Year's day, contained a significant hint to the American, Charge de Affairs that he (Napoleon) would recognize the Southern Confederacy unless the North should demonstrate its ability to crush the rebels before the 4th of March next.

GOOD THING.—It is proposed to keep a complete list, at Surgeon General Dale's office in the State House, of all the Massachusetts officers and soldiers who have been discharged from the United States service on account of sickness or wounds, and who are thus prevented from resuming their former occupations, with the design of procuring employment for them.

REVIVED.—The project is revived of running a branch railroad from the New London and Palmer road, to Springfield, intersecting at Stafford or Willimantic.

SEE THERE.—There is a whole street full of maitreissable ladies in Pittsfield with nary an offer. We advise them to apply to Governor Andrew for a passage to Oregon.

HIGH PRICED SHEEP.—E. Hammond & Son of Middlebury, Ct., have sold their ram lamb, Fortune, to a company of gentlemen in Pennsylvania, for \$5000.

ADMIRAL FARAGUT is said to have remarked recently that the failure to take Wilmington rested upon whosoever had deferred the expedition to midwinter.

There has been introduced in Congress a proposition to tax distilled spirits three dollars a gallon after the 1st of July next.

PALMER AND VICINITY.

MONSON.—The military district composed of Monson, Wilbraham, and Longmeadow, has chosen Mortimer Pease, of Wilbraham, for captain.

RETURNED PRISONER.—Jasper Harris, of this town, who was taken prisoner at Plymouth, N. C. last May, has been exchanged, and returned home a few days ago. His friends had given him up for dead.

WALES.—Rev. John Noon, of Wales, was visited on Thursday evening, Jan. 12th, by his society and friends, who left with him their good wishes and seventy-eight dollars in articles more visible and substantial.

SLEIGH RIDE.—A party of fifteen or twenty couples from Monson came to Palmer last Wednesday evening, and stopped at the Antique House, where they took supper and then danced till 3 o'clock next morning.

STARVED TO DEATH.—James P. McElwain, son of James McElwain, formerly of Palmer, but now of Lyons, N. Y., is reported as having been starved to death in prison at Charleston, S. C.

HARD CASE.—A colored man was brought to the Monson State Almshouse the other day, who was found in the woods at East Brookfield. He says he had enlisted, and that he had been beaten and robbed of his money and left in the woods, where he had lain two or three days.

RUSAWAY.—The horse of D. G. Potter, of Monson, was left standing alone a few moments in this place, last Monday morning, when he took fright and ran away, smashing the sleigh attached to him, and starting another horse, which was caught before doing any damage. Moral—Always hitch your horse.

The next "sociable," which is nothing short of a dancing party, will take place next Friday evening, at the Antique. Dancing appears to be a favorite amusement with Palmer people this winter. Two dancing schools are in full operation in town, with numerous other dancing parties to fill in.

WILBRAHAM.—Wilbraham Academy has now 260 pupils. The Athenaeum and Pieria, the ladies' literary societies, held public exercises on Friday evening last week.—The Farmers' Club of Wilbraham will hold their annual meeting at the house of their president, J. L. S. Wesson, on Monday evening of next week, for the choice of officers.

HENRY ROBBINS, formerly of Monson, but now of Springfield, was made to disgorge \$535, which he had taken of a couple of Stafford substitutes and agreed to deposit in the bank for them. He had been in company with Dalton and Wallace, two other substitute brokers, and had swindled them out of several hundred dollars.

THE FOREIGNER'S COMPLAINT DENIED.—The proprietor of the dancing hall, complained of in last week's paper by Bartholomew Murphy, denies that he ever refused to supply any other foreigner dancer there; and, furthermore, he let the hall to a dancing master, and had nothing to do with the dancing there.—Murphy made a bold statement, and deserves a sound blowing up if it was not true.

M. W. FRENCH & BROTHER have sold their stock of dry goods and groceries to John S. Converse of Palmer, and George Smith of Monson, who will take possession immediately, and continue the business. Messrs. French have been in the mercantile business in this village for a number of years, and in whatever business they may hereafter engage will have the best wishes of their numerous friends and customers.

THOMAS LODGE.—The annual meeting of Thomas Lodge of Masons, in this village, was held Jan. 9th, when the following officers were chosen for the year ensuing: James B. Shaw, W. M.; George H. Clark, S. W.; F. G. Sedgwick, J. W.; Alonzo N. Dewey, Treasurer; James Knox, Secretary; Andrew Pinney, S. D.; Frank H. Wood, J. D.; E. B. Shaw, Marshal; C. H. Hanaford, Chaplain; E. B. Hubbard, S. S.; Freeman Dodge, J. S.; Chas. H. Brakenridge, Organist; Lyman A. Nelson, Tyler.

SHOCKING DEATH.—Michael McLegot, an Irishman, employed in sawing wood for the Western Railroad, met with a sudden and shocking death last Monday noon, in this village. He had placed the platform on which the horse was led into the machine upright behind him, and the wind blew it over upon him, throwing him forward upon the revolving saw, which entered his skull, completely taking off one side of his head, and scattering his brains around the premises. Of course, death was instantaneous. He was a single man, about 21 years of age, and lived at Three Rivers. He was to have been married in a few days.

NO GREAT AFFAIR.—The Canadian draft riot, which the frighted Provincial papers magnified into a rebellion, seems to have been a very small affair. The rioters all skedaddled to the woods on the approach of the military, and the few who were arrested were nearly frightened to death. No blood was shed and nobody hurt.

THE ENROLLMENT ACT.—The House Military Committee is very busily engaged upon proposed amendments to the enrollment act. It is proposed to confiscate the property of drafted men who run away, to the extent of the price of a substitute.

OUR PASSPORT SYSTEM is destroying the profits of Canadian railways. Canadians can now see that it costs something to hate neighbors. "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and thou wilt have a full share of his business, and find him a profitable fellow.

A PRESENT TO MR. LINCOLN.—The loaded shell fired into the rudder-post of the Kearsarge, by the pirate Alabama, has been sent to Washington as a present from Capt. Winslow to President Lincoln, the latter having expressed a wish to have it as a trophy.